



Benefit Choice Enrollment Period

This year's Benefits Choice Period will be held during May, 2005. During this month you have the opportunity to make changes to your existing benefit plans. Changes made in May will be effective July 1, 2005.

You should receive a new Benefit Choice Booklet in the mail by the first of May. Please read this booklet carefully to ensure you understand the changes coming July 1, 2005.

The new Benefit Choice Booklet will also be available on our website: www.state.il.us/srs. A new Benefit Choice Election Form is included in the forthcoming Benefit Choice Booklet. Read this form carefully **as documentation is required for some changes.**

Important Changes Effective July 1, 2005:

✓ The new Prescription Drug Plan Administrator replacing Caremark will be Medco. Medco will be the Administrator for the same self-insured health providers as last year (Quality Care Health Plan, OSF Winnebago, Health Alliance Illinois and HealthLink OAP).

All other health providers (HMO Illinois, Health Alliance HMO, OSF Health Plans, Personal Care, Unicare HMO) **are not under Medco.** See details on pages 8 and 9 of the Benefit Choice Booklet.

✓ All prescription drug co-payments for QCHP and managed care plans will be \$9.00 for Generic, \$18.00 for Preferred Brands, and \$36.00 for Non-Preferred Brands. Medco members will continue to see a savings for maintenance drugs under the Medco Maintenance Mail/Retail Pharmacy Program. See details on pages 2 and 9 of the Booklet.

✓ Medco is working with Caremark to transfer open mail order prescriptions. Members who need to refill maintenance medication in May or June should still send in the refill to Caremark.

Compound narcotics and specialty drug prescriptions can't be transferred. If you need to obtain a new prescription, you will be notified.

✓ The new Vision Plan Administrator is EyeMed. See details on page 20 of the Benefit Choice Booklet.

✓ QCHP dependent health premiums will increase effective July 1, 2005. See details on page 7 of your Booklet.

✓ Increases to Inpatient Hospital and Emergency Room copayments and deductibles are on page 2 of the Benefit Choice Booklet.

✓ Life insurance contribution rates will increase for optional term life. See details on page 6 of the Benefit Choice Booklet.

NEW BENEFIT: A new benefit being offered July 1, 2005 is coverage for hearing exams and aids with a maximum allowance of \$100 for audiologist fee(s) and \$500 for hearing aids. This benefit is limited to once every three Plan years. See details on page 2 of the Benefit Choice Booklet.

If you decide to make changes, complete, sign and date the Benefit Choice Election Form and mail to:

**State Employees Retirement System
2101 South Veterans Parkway
P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255**

**before close of business May 31, 2005.
Please include your telephone number on the form.**

You should only complete the Benefit Choice Election Form if you are making changes. If you do not need to make changes, you do not have to do anything. This form must be completed and mailed before close of business May 31, 2005. Remember to keep your Benefit Choice Booklet in a safe place since supplies are limited!

We will mail new Contribution Rate sheets before the end of May to annuitants paying a percentage of the State paid portion of health insurance.



2101 S. Veterans Parkway
P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255

PRSRT STD
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, IL
Permit No. 662

SERS Insurance Contact Information

In an effort to provide more efficient and personal service, the SERS Insurance Section has assigned all annuitants a personal Group Insurance Representative (GIR) based on the last two digits of your Social Security number:

If the last two digits of your SSN is **00-24** your GIR is Sheryll Clark: 217-785-7145.

If the last two digits of your SSN is **25-49** your GIR is Julie Harms: 217-785-7150.

If the last two digits of your SSN is **50-74** your GIR is Madonna Palazzolo: 217-785-7138.

If the last two digits of your SSN is **75-99** your GIR is Beth Maney: 217-785-7093.

***Example: John Doe ***-**-5525.
His personal GIR would be Julie Harms.***

***Due to the high volume of calls to the Insurance Section,
you may be asked to leave your name, phone number
(including area code) and your Social Security Number.
Your GIR will respond to your phone call as soon as possible.***

E-Mail Addresses and Fax Numbers for your GIR

00-24 Sheryll Clark
sclark@srs.state.il.us
Fax: 217-547-9771

25-49 Julie Harms
jharms@srs.state.il.us
Fax: 217-547-9772

50-74 Madonna Palazzolo
mpalazzo@srs.state.il.us
Fax: 217-547-9768

75-99 Beth Maney
bmaney@srs.state.il.us
Fax: 217-547-9770

SERS Insurance Section Supervisor:

Patti Casey 217-785-7047
pcasey@srs.state.il.us
Fax 217-547-9769

***Springfield Insurance Section
Fax: 217-524-2293
TDD: 217-785-7218***

***Chicago Office: 312-814-5853
Chicago Fax: 312-814-5805***

